TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 1st August, 1922.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty of the Clock with the President in the Chair. The Hon'ble Sir Charles Todhunter, Member of Council, Madras, and H. H. Burkitt, Esquire, I. C. S., Resident in Travancore and Cochin, were present.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

PREPARATION OF 'NIRAK' STATEMENTS AND CONSEQUENT HARDSHIP TO CLIENTS.

29. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how the present *nirak* rates are obtained;

(*b*) whether the Tahsildars directly ascertain them from any local merchants; and

(*c*) if so, whether the Tahsildars preserve the statements received from the merchants along with the records and whether copies of the same will be available on application?

(2) Do the Government know that the *nirak*, as now calculated by local authorities, is nearly twice the rate actually prevailing, and that as such it works hardship on clients who are directed to pay the price of paddy at the *nirak* rate?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (1) (*a*) & (*b*) The member is referred to pages 148 of Vol. III and 624 of Vol. II of the Land Revenue

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[Mr. M. Nilakanda Pillai.]

Manual. The Tahsildars, and in some stations, the Stationary Magistrates are responsible for the periodical supply of *nirak* statements. They ascertain the prices ruling in the markets by deputing their subordinates to make the necessary enquiries and verifying the information supplied by the latter by means of personal enquiries on their own part. In regard to some of the principal commodities, returns of prices are obtained from the Commissioner of Police also and these are utilised as a counter-check on the *niraks*.

(*c*) Copies of the *nirak* statements are preserved with the records and are available on application.

(2) Government have no information.

DARBAR PHYSICIAN AND PRIVATE PRACTICE.

30. MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the heads of the medical administrations in Madras and other Provinces are not allowed private practice, and, if so, will they be pleased to state why the Darbar Physician in Travancore is allowed to carry on extensive private practice in spite of the fact that he draws a pay equal to that of the Chief Justice of the State?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they consider it consistent with departmental discipline to allow the executive head of the Medical Department to enter into competition with his own subordinates whom he has the power to punish and otherwise injure?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the resources of the General Hospital in men and material are being utilised by the Darbar Physician for his private practice? Does he perform surgical operation in the General Hospital and receive remuneration for the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government have no information as to the practice in Madras. Government, however, understand that, in Mysore, the officer corresponding to the Darbar Physician is allowed to have private practice. Under the Travancore Medical Code, the Darbar Physician is not debarred from private practice.

(*b*) Government are not prepared to express an opinion.

(*c*) Government are not aware of any objectionable use of the facilities afforded in the General Hospital by the Darbar Physician or of his receiving any remuneration which he is prevented from accepting under the rules.

TRANSFER OF MEDICAL OFFICERS BY THE DARBAR PHYSICIAN.

31. MR. M. NILAKANDA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are instances of medical officers practising

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